

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the Abstract in the Specification with the Abstract below.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An image processing apparatus includes an alteration unit and a control unit. The alteration unit alters a first image file stored in a removable storage medium in order to generate a second image file. The control unit controls to store the second image file in the storage medium without deleting the first image file from the storage medium, if the first image file includes authentication data that is used to authenticate whether the first image file has been altered.